

PORTLAND URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of the Medical Officer of Health  
for the years 1972 and 1973

Public Health Department Staff

Medical Officer of Health - Dr. G.E. Thomas, MB., BS., MFCM., DPH., DRCOG.  
Public Health Inspector - Mr. P.A. Williams, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.M.M.E.  
Shorthand/Typist/Clerk - Mrs L.J. Chandler, (resigned October, 1972)  
Miss A. Hoskins, (appointed 29th October, 1972).  
Sanitary Assistant/Rodent Operator - Mr. M. Hume.

General Statistics

	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>
Area (land and internal water) in acres	2,905	2,905
Rateable Value at 1st April	£414,778	£904,941
Sum represented by the penny rate at 1st April	£3,982	£9,630
Number of houses or flats (exclusive of Government properties), at 1st April	3711	3824
Number of Council houses or flats (included in above)	816	820
Shops assessed with private dwelling accommodation	83	86



Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report on the health and sanitary conditions of the Urban District, for the years 1972 and 1973.

The Vital Statistics generally are satisfactory and compare favourably with the national figures. The deaths from carcinoma of the lung, amounting to 60 percent of all deaths from cancer, continue to give cause for concern, and demonstrate yet again the dangers of cigarette smoking.

It was a very quiet period as far as infectious diseases were concerned and no significant outbreaks occurred. The immunisation rate against measles may now be reaching the level which will prevent any extensive outbreaks in the future.

Demand for housing - both that provided by the Council and in the private sector - continues to increase. In view of the very limited areas still available for development it is difficult to foresee any improvement in this position. The plight of the elderly - many of them with no financial resources and living alone in unsuitable accommodation - is particularly serious. The Council is fully aware of this problem and the new warden supervised units at Vindelis Court are proving very successful. Further provision of this sort is still required and it is therefore most satisfactory that a similar project at the site of the old Easton Station is already well in progress.

Two problems associated with refuse disposal have received attention during 1972 and 1973.

The Council Tip at Wide Street had been a source of annoyance over many years. It was often on fire and the smoke and smell dispersed over a wide area; in the frequent strong winds the lighter rubbish was blown long distances from the high exposed site; it provided also a harbourage for insects, rodents and other pests. The Council wisely decided to spend a considerable sum of money so that proper controlled tipping could be carried out under sheltered conditions and the refuse adequately covered. The beneficial results soon became apparent and the nuisances emanating from the Tip abated.


On the Island in general it had long been easier for individuals to dispose of bulky refuse illicitly in quarries and other convenient places. The provision of containers, sited close to residential areas and emptied at frequent intervals, has reduced unauthorised dumping, which was disfiguring some of the more picturesque localities.

Environmental health here poses some special difficulties, both on account of the geography and the large holiday increase in population. The small staff of the Department have worked hard to maintain as high a standard of service as possible.

Finally I would like to thank the Members of the Council, and particularly the Chairman of the Welfare Committee, for their help and consideration.

I have the honour to be,  
Your obedient servant,

G.E. THOMAS.



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	Local Authority area			England and Wales (Total)		Local Authority Area	England and Wales
	Males	Females	Total				
Estimated mid-year home population	-	-	14,700	49,028,900		-	-
Live births							
Total	141	132	273	725,405	Live birth rates, etc.		
Legitimate	130	127	257	662,907	Livebirths per 1,000 home population (crude rate)	18.6	14.8
Illegitimate	11	5	16	62,498	Area comparability factor	.96	1.00
					Local adjusted rate	17.9	14.8
					Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate	1.21	1.00
					Illegitimate livebirths as percentage of all live births	6	9
Stillbirths					Stillbirth rate		
Total	2	1	3	8,794			
Legitimate	2	1	3	7,846	Stillbirths per 1,000 total live and still births	11	12
Illegitimate	-	-	-	948			
Total live and still births							
Total	143	133	276	734,199			
Legitimate	132	128	260	670,753			
Illegitimate	11	5	16	63,446			

	Local authority area			England and Wales		Local Authority area	England and Wales
	Males	Females	Total				
Deaths of infants under one year of age					Infant mortality rates		
Total	5	3	8	12,494	Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births	29	17
Legitimate	4	2	6	11,177	Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legitimate live births	23	17
Illegitimate	1	1	2	1,317	Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 illegitimate live births	125	21
under 4 weeks of age							
Total	1	1	2	8,373	Neonatal mortality rate		
Legitimate	1	1	2	7,503	Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births	7	12
Illegitimate	-	-	-	870			
under 1 week of age							
Total	1	1	2	7,142	Early neonatal mortality rate		
Legitimate	1	1	2	6,365	Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births	7	10
Illegitimate	-	-	-	777	Perinatal mortality rate		
					Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 total live and still births	18	22
Deaths - all ages	68	26	94	591,907	Death rates, ect. - all ages		
					Deaths per 1,000 home population (crude rate)	6.4	12.1
					Area comparability factor	1.46	1.00
					Local adjusted rate	9.3	12.1
					Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate	.77	1.00





Cause of death	Order												
	Sex	All Ages	4 weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 & over
B46(6) OTHER DISEASES OF CIRCULATORY SYSTEM	M	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
B32 PNEUMONIA	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-
	F	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
B33(1) BRONCHITIS AND EMPHYSEMA	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B34 PEPTIC UCLER	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B36 INTESTINAL OBSTRUCTION AND HERNIA	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B39 HYPERPLASIA OF PROSTATE	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B46(9) OTHER DISEASES, GENITO-URINARY SYSTEM	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CONGENITAL ANOMALIES	M	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B44 OTHER CAUSES OF PERINATAL MORTALITY	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B45 SYMPTOMS AND ILL DEFINED CONDITIONS	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
BE47. MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS	M	5	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	1	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>TOTAL ALL CAUSES</u>	M	68	1	4	-	-	2	4	1	7	14	24	11
	F	26	1	2	1	-	-	-	2	2	1	4	13

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Infectious Diseases notified during the year, shown as quarterly totals:-

	<u>March</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1972</u>
Scarlet Fever	3	1	3	-	7
Infective Jaundice	1	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis	-	1	-	-	1
Measles	-	-	4	-	4

## FOOD POISONING

Two cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

One confirmed Salmonella Typhimurium, in a man returning from Spain, and a second the cause of which was unknown.

## FOOD

### (1) GENERAL

All food premises were visited by the Public Health Inspector, often in conjunction with visits under the Factories Act, Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, or Public Health Acts.

Twenty-four Voluntary Surrender Certificates were issued for defective food, resulting from damaged containers, breaking down refrigerators or blown tins.

The Dorset County Council are the Food and Drug Authority for the District, and in this capacity their Weights and Measures Department submitted ten food samples to the Laboratory from Portland, apart from samples from outside sources and distribution of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968.

Following a complaint about a carton of clotted cream, the County Weights and Measures Department investigated the process employed, but no further action could be taken. Similarly a sample of chicken and bacon pie was examined, but was found to be correct. A small stone of the similar size and colour as a bone was found in a tin of baked beans, and the matter was taken up with the packers, but it was considered that prosecution was not warranted.

### (2) MEAT PREMISES

There are no registered Slaughter Houses and no Poultry Processing Premises within the District, although there are Egg Production Premises at Moorfield Road, Easton, for 15,000 hens.

All meat for human consumption was inspected by Officers of the adjoining Authorities and brought to the Island in enclosed metal wans.

All butchers or provision shops producing or selling meat products were visited frequently, and standards were found to be in accordance with the Meat Regulations 1960, Food and Drugs Act 1955 and Food Hygiene Regulations.



## FOOD - cont'd

### (3) MILK

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1963, the Dorset County Council registered grocers and cafes as dealers for the sale of pre-packed pasteurised milk on Portland.

The County Health Department reported that thirty-one milk samples were submitted to the Laboratory from retailers and food premises and these were all correct.

The two main suppliers of milk are Messrs. Unigate Ltd., and the Weymouth and District Co-operative Society, both at Weymouth.

Six samples were submitted regarding fat content. The Island has two farmers who forwarded milk to Weymouth for pasteurisation. The Public Health Inspector visited these farms four times in regard to rats, manure removal and toilet facilities.

### (4) SUMMARY

Food premises within the area are as follows:-

Butchers Shops	8
Bakers Shops	6
Bakeries	3
Greengrocers	14
General Provision Shops	35
Confectioners	21
Mobile Canteens	2
Works Canteens	1
Food Stalls	2
School Canteens	3
Hotels	6
Licensed Premises	24
Salvation Army Hostels	1
Cafes	14

### (5) FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1960 CAFE AND FOOD PREMISES

Seven notices were needed for minor items in food premises regarding drainage, equipment, rodent proofing, repairs, redecorations, fixing occupiers name and address in one case and general cleanliness.

The construction of the new Cafe at Verne Yeates to replace the Caravan Food Stall and Temporary Cafe proceeded.

Generally speaking, the standards of food hygiene were reasonably satisfactory.

### (6) UN SOUND FOOD VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED AND DISPOSED OF

Condemned food collected by Council transport after voluntary surrender has been agreed in writing and disposed of at the Council Tip as follows:-

Milk	3 pints
Meat	49 lbs.
Peas	30 lbs.
Fish	24 lbs.
Grapefruit	2 lbs.
Prunes	10 lbs.
Peaches	34 lbs.
Pineapples	4 lbs.
Pears	3 lbs.
Beetroot	5 lbs.
Pastries	4 lbs.
Meat Pies	4 lbs.
Tomatoes	16 lbs.
Mixed Vegetables	3 lbs.

### Condemned Food - cont'd

Cheese	40 lbs.
Chickens	9 lbs.
Beans	30 lbs.
Ice Cream	19 lbs.
Rice	2 lbs.
Sprouts	4 lbs.
Potatoes	7 lbs.
Apricots	36 lbs.
Mixed Fruits	5 lbs.

### WATER SUPPLY

The Dorset Water Board is responsible for the supply of water to the Island.

All the houses in the district have a main water supply which is chlorinated. One sample for chemical analysis was submitted to Messrs. Waterfall & O'Brien of Bristol who reported as follows:-

"We are enclosing our analysis of the sample sent on December 30th. A study of our collection of analysis of this water shows absolutely no significant change in the very high purity of water".

Tap in basement, Council Offices, Portland, 30/12/71

Appearance: Clear, colourless, odourless.

Reaction: pH 7.45

		<u>Parts per million</u>
Ammonia (as N)		
Free		
Albuminoid		0.01
Chloride		0.03
Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs.)		23
Nitrogen in Nitrite		0.26
Nitrogen in Nitrate		Minute trace
Total Solids		3.2
Loss on ignition		286
Appearance on ignition		6
		No charring
Hardness:	Temporary	
	Permanent	208
	Total	<u>25</u>
		233
Lead	Pb	
Copper	Cu	0.02
		0.02

### Mineral

Calcium	Ca	
Magnesium	Mg	87
Sodium	Na	3.7
Potassium	K	13
Carbonate	CO <sub>3</sub>	0.7
Sulphate	SO <sub>4</sub>	123
		13
Iron	Fe	
		0.02
Fluoride	F	
		0.10

Apart from this, thirty-four samples of the chlorinated supply was submitted by the Council to the Public Health Laboratory at Dorchester for bacteriological examination, and all were reported as satisfactory.

During the year a number of complaints of inadequate water supply were received from residents in the Southwell area, and two in the Grove area. These complaints were taken up by the Council with the Dorset Water Board, and some improvement followed, but restrictions on development of the Tophill area must continue until major improvements are made.



## HOUSING ACT 1956 - 1969

During the year the following were officially represented as unfit for human habitation and Closing Orders made:-

Flats 1a, 2a and 3a of Weston House  
25 Artist Row

The following action was taken regarding houses officially represented in previous years:-

26 Spring Gardens, (Ground Floor Flat), the Closing Order was determined

The following premises were represented and a Demolition Order was made, and carried out by the Owner:-

"Summerville", Moorfield Road

## HOUSING ACT 1961 - MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

Under the Housing Act 1961, thirty-eight visits were made to the thirty-six houses occupied by more than one family and ten informal notices, mainly for essential repairs to roofs or eradication of dampness were served. Six notices were served to provide rent books.

A Salvation Army Hostel with seventy cubicles is well maintained.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the area.

## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948, SECTION 47

### National Assistance (Amendment) Act 1951

No formal action was required during the year, but sixty-five visits were made to aged and infirm persons, and help and guidance given as needed. One unknown person was buried after being washed up from the sea.

## COUNCIL HOUSE APPLICATIONS - VINDELIS COURT

During the year twenty-seven "Special Conditions" Applications for Council Accommodation were investigated and twenty-six visits were made by the Medical Officer of Health and the Public Health Inspector regarding the selection of further tenants for the warden supervised elderly persons flatlets.

Vindelis Court was designed by the Council with provision for a Warden so that the tenants who are elderly or infirm are able to be given any assistance or advice required. The building, which was first occupied during the year, comprises:-

8 one bedroomed flats for two persons  
14 one bedroomed flats suitable for one person  
2 one bedroomed flats suitable for single disabled persons.

## CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960

There are three licensed caravan sites on the Island as follows:-

(i) Messrs. H.E.M. and B.A.W. Cade, of 27 Shiremore Hill, Merriott, Somerset, for five residential and six holiday caravans at the Glen Caravan Site (adjoining 154 Wakeham).

(ii) Mr. H.W. and Mrs. D. Legg have permanent planning permission for sixteen residential caravans at the rear of Weston House, Weston Road, (called the Weston Caravan Site).

(iii) Messrs. Cove Chalet Park (Portland) are licensed for thirty holiday caravans in the upper and lower paddocks, adjoining Pennsylvania Castle.



## CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960 - cont'd

These sites were regularly visited (22 occasions), by the Public Health Inspector and good conditions were maintained. The fire hose and equipment were adjudged satisfactorily by the Fire Officer concerned, having regard to the available water supply on the Island.

## THE DISEASE OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOOD) ORDER 1957

By this order all waste food for animals must be boiled before use. The County Council registered four premises on Portland and the County Land Agent's Department employed an Inspector to visit each Pig Keeper's premises and check the boiler at least quarterly. Ten visits were also made by the Public Health Inspector when conditions were generally found to be satisfactory.

## ANIMAL BOARDING ACT 1953 - PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

One shop was licensed as a Pet Shop during the year, and one other under the Animal Boarding Act.

The local R.S.P.C.A. Inspector is an Honorary Inspector under the Pet Animals Act and six visits were made by the Public Health Inspector. One written notice was issued to maintain the rear yard in a clean state.

## DEALERS IN SCRAP METAL

Five persons were registered by the Council to deal in Scrap Metal under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964, and eight visits were made. The general inspection of books and premises were, by the Act, carried out by the Police Authority after registration by the Council.

## MINES AND QUARRIES ACT 1954, SECTION 151 - PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936, SECTION 92

Twelve visits were made to check quarry fences throughout the Island. By this Act, an unfenced quarry is a Statutory Nuisance and abatement is ensured by notices served under section 92 of the Public Health Act 1936.

The main quarry companies were reminded regarding renewal or repair of fences and a reasonable standard resulted.

## LITTER ACT 1958 - CIVIC AMENITIES ACT 1967

The Council and the Crown Officers of the Court Leet try to minimise the litter problem at Portland Bill and other Crown Land open to the public. Portland Bill attracts many thousands of sight-seers every summer, but in spite of propaganda, visitors do not seem to be as litter conscious as would be hoped. Fortunately, however, this exposed area receives periodic cleaning of its litter into the sea by the high winds.

To the east of the Bill itself, there is a considerable area of land taken up by huts, which are for day recreational purposes. It can be reported that these huts and the surrounding area, has, once again been kept in immaculate condition. It is evident that the hut owners, who include a lot of local people, take a pride in their surroundings.

Civic Amenities Act 1967 - by this Act the Council are required to provide a suitable disposal area for unwanted items such as cars or general refuse. With this in mind, the Council provide a pound in Wide Street, where vehicles are disposed of. Whilst the overall position was satisfactory, nine vehicles needed to be removed and constant vigilance, particularly on Council Car Parks, was necessary.

Persons abandoning vehicles could, of course, be prosecuted, but in any case the cost of removal is recovered, whenever possible.

## PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

There are twelve public conveniences for men and ten for women. These are maintained in reasonable structural condition, although two due for renewal this year are without wash-hand basins. A new dual convenience was planned on the Victoria Square Car Park to replace the obsolete one in Chesil.



## PUBLIC CONVENIENCES - cont'd

The public conveniences at Portland Bill are still inadequate during the peak summer period. The new dual conveniences on Weymouth Road Car Park were completed and were particularly helpful in this popular beach area.

One hundred and ten visits to check the maintenance of conveniences were made by the Public Health Inspector, and a very few complaints were received, in spite of periodic vandalism.

## DRAINAGE AND GENERAL WORK

The Health Department carried out the clearing of drains and private sewers by direct labour at no extra charge to the property owner. Nine notices were served on the owners for drainage repairs or improvements of drains giving recurrent trouble, and eighty-four reinspections resulted.

The Public Health Inspector investigated and tested all drainage defects or complaints throughout the Island.

Authority is given to require work to be carried out on private sewers and to ensure early action in an emergency, the cost being apportioned between the owners.

The Council's Sanitary Assistant and Rodent Operative carried out most of the rodent destruction throughout the area (apart from Crown Properties), disinfestations and disinfections of buildings, burning of accumulations, spraying of the Council's Tip and other miscellaneous duties.

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936 - DUST AND SMOKE

Under the Public Health Act, twenty-one observations were carried out on the stone crusher at Wakeham, particularly at times of the north-east winds. Inspections were made in conjunction with Dr. Lane, the Alkali Works Inspector from Bristol. The new conical shutes, which adjusted themselves to suit the height of the heaps, together with the overhaul of the sprinklers and water supply, the daily sweeping of roads and the use of a water cart in quarry areas, resulted in partial improvements from the previous year, although one statutory notice was served. Thirty-five visits were also made on the loading quay at Castletown regarding dust, and a statutory notice was served in relation to two vessels.

## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Portland has approximately 4,590 dwellings and business premises, and drainage from these, with a few exceptions, passes into sewers and out to Sea untreated through four outfalls, at Chiswell, Chene, Portland Bill and Sheat.

Apart from a small area at the south end of Wakeham, all the Tophill sewerage enters the sea by natural fall, but in the Underhill area sewage from Castletown is pumped into the sea at Chiswell.

The Grove area, comprising the Borstal Institution and Officers Quarters, the Grove School and two large houses in the area and the new estate of ten houses for the Borstal Institution are connected to the Institution's private sewer outfall, and fifty new houses in the area are added to this.

The Admiralty have private sewer outfalls from the Naval Base and other establishments adjoining, which enter the sea outside the Harbour.

The sewer of the Westcliff Naval Housing Estate and the large Admiralty buildings at Southwell are connected to the Council's sewers, although the surface water is disposed of separately.

The provision of a separate system in connection with the continued housing developments in the Weston area has helped the existing sewerage system to cope with the new development. A scheme to relieve the Weston and Wakeham sewers and to group the sewers to Sheat outfall was completed.



## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL - cont'd

The sewerage from Moorfield Road and Wakeham carries, by Council arrangement, waste from the chicken battery of approximately 15,000 birds. The Council approved a scheme to improve the flow in the flat length adjoining the Pennsylvania Castle Hotel, and this has now been completed. A degreasing agent was also introduced by the operator of the chicken battery which ensured that the sewer remained free from grease.

## RODENT CONTROL

The district was inspected for rats and other rodents by the Public Health Inspector and the Part-time Rodent Operative. Emphasis was continued on showing occupiers how to use bait safely and keep premises rat-proofed. The open spaces in Portland continued to need regular attention, but no major infestation occurred.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food methods of disinfection were used and there were regular visits from their Officers to check the work.

During the year sewers were test-baited and poison-baited according to the Ministry Inspector's advice. Only three baits were taken by rats in the sewers.

Baits containing preservatives were used for both sewers and surface treatments. Small metal trays in selected manhole chambers hold the bait above the level of the storm water flow during the rainy season.

Seventy-one small infestations of rats were dealt with and fifteen treatments were given for mice.

The Council Tip was baited eight times during the year, and extra consolidation and soil coverage was made, at increased cost from the previous years.

Numbers of visits of part-time Rodent Operative (inspections and treatments)	235
Sewer manholes test-baited	52
Sewer manholes poison-baited	8
Owners advised regarding precautions	9
Visits made by the Public Health Inspector primarily for other purposes, but combined with rodent inspection	1,821
Visits made by the Public Health Inspector for rodent matters only	26

## REFUSE COLLECTION

This work is under the control of the Council's Engineer & Surveyor who has kindly supplied the following report:-

"A weekly collection of house and shop refuse was carried out regularly and satisfactorily throughout the year. A performance payment scheme is operated.

One Commer 35 cubic yard, rear loading, ram tipping vehicle is used for main collections. One afternoon a week a second vehicle, being an 18 yard Commer, rear loading, verticle tipping vehicle is used for the collection in narrow streets.

It is estimated that 5,500 tons of house and trade refuse was disposed of during the year, apart from 700 tons of refuse from the Naval Base.

Efforts are made to maintain controlled tipping at the Council's Tip at Wide Street and a man is employed full-time to control this, and operate partial salvage. Owing to its high exposed position, sufficient cover soil was essential at early periods, together with nets to prevent the lighter items blowing about. This was provided and the tip maintained satisfactorily."

## OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

By this Act, occupiers of shops and offices are required to be registered with the Local Authority (mines, quarries and works offices, railways, government

## OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963 - cont'd

and local government properties are registered with H.M. Factory Inspector) and all premises are notified to the County Fire Officer.

The Public Health Inspector is the Authorised Officer under the Act and the ninth full report to the Department of Employment showed that at the end of 1972 two hundred and eighty-five visits were made to twenty-one offices, eighty-two shops, four wholesale warehouses, eighteen catering establishments and two fuel depots, and nine exemption certificates were made regarding toilets in shops and fuel stores.

There were 178 men and 272 women employed in premises registered with Portland Council.

## PLEASURE BOATS USED FOR HIRE

The Council registered five pleasure boats under Section 172 of the Public Health Act 1875 to ply for hire and carry not more than 11 persons, including the crew, and operate from the Urban District. Any vessels carrying a larger number of persons than this is registered with the Board of Trade. Particular attention was paid to the condition of the vessel together with life saving precautions and operating equipment.

## NOISE ABATEMENT

During the year ten complaints were investigated regarding noise, particularly in flats, and twenty-three visits were made, two statutory notices were served, but mostly advice was given, as it was found that many modern premises had been constructed with insufficient regard to noise prevention, particularly through concrete floors without separate ceilings.

I am pleased to say that in Vindelis Court (the new elderly persons flats with a warden) this problem has been very adequately dealt with.

The control of noise, both from dance bands in public halls, from dogs and in premises occupied by more than one family is tending to take a heavier toll on time than previously. Indeed, I think that in many respects it is becoming specialist work.



# FACTORIES ACT 1961

## Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act 1961

INSPECTIONS for purposes as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector):

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of written Notices	Occupier prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	28	56	-	-
(2) Factories not incl- uded in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	33	46	5	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	3	10	-	-
TOTAL	64	112	5	-

DEFECTS found in these cases:

Particulars  (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found  Referred				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted  (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temper- ature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventila- tion (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-

FACTORIES ACT 1961 - cont'd

Particulars  (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted  (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-workers)	8	8	-	-	-
TOTAL	11	11	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT (outwork) SECTIONS 133 and 134

Nature of Work	Section 133		Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 133 (a) & (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwhole-some premises	Notices served
Making wearing apparel etc.	3	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	-	-	-	-

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS ETC., MADE BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Visits made under the Public Health Acts	72
Housing 'Special Condition' Application	27
Complaints investigated	51
Informal Notices issued	54
Builders or Owners interviewed or reminded	87
Reinspections	76
Informal Notices complied	54
Council House tenancy enquiries	81
Housing Survey Inspections	14
Aged and Infirm Persons	65
Visits and Inspections of Council Houses	115
Repair items referred to Engineer's Department	83
Houses let in lodgings	38
Informal Notices issued	10
Informal Notices complied	10
Water samples (bacteriological)	34
Water wastage reported	10
Water samples (chemical)	1
Water representations	2
Butchers Shops and Meat Preparation Rooms	33
Informal Notices issued	4
Informal Notices complied	4
Grocers	22
Ice cream and milk	9
Licensed Premises	23
Food Certificates issued	24
Magistrates Certificates re. unsound Food	1
Warning to Producers	2
Food complaints investigated	3
Cafes	4
Hotels	6
Advice to Manufacturers	3
Stalls	3
Clubs	2
Bakeries	5
Canteens	10
Farms	4
Referred to the Food and Drug Authority	1
Chicken Farm and Battery	3
Fish Shops	6
Visits re. drains and sewers	82
Choked drains or sewers cleared	176
Notices to repair drainage	9
Reinspections of drains	84
Drain-Preliminary Notices	12
Smoke tests	6
Colour tests	8
Grease tanks pumped	1
Mortgaged Properties inspected	5
Qualification Certificates	22
Offices and Shops Acts	285
Factory Inspections	112
Informal Notices issued	11
Informal Notices complied	11
Pet Shops	6
Station Yard	22
Council Tip and Depot	46
Tip sprayed for flies	8
Tip baited for rats	8
Inspections revisits re. rodents	26
Quarries Inspected	12
Informal Notices issued	3
Informal Notices complied	3
Public Conveniences	110
School Conveniences	6
Deposits removed from quarries	4



Council and Private Building Sites	8
Scrap Metal Dealers - visits	8
Hackney Carriages	55
Dangerous Buildings	4
Caravans	26
Informal Notices issued	15
Informal Notices complied	15
Garages re. petroleum Acts	7
Disinfection of Dwellings	6
Pleasure Boats	13
Tents and Sheds	32
Chesil Beach	17
Disinfestations (not rats)	27
Pig Keeper's visits	10
Miscellaneous	125
Noise Abatement	23
Castletown Quay	35
Crusher Plant for Dust	21
Accumulations	18

Informal Notices issued	163
Informal Notices complied	163
Statutory Notices issued	10
Statutory Notices complied	10

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## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Infectious diseases notified during the year, shown as quarterly totals:-

	<u>March</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1973</u>
Scarlet Fever	2	2	1	-	5
Measles	-	35	3	-	38
Scabies	-	-	-	3	3

## FOOD POISONING

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

## FOOD

### (1) GENERAL

All food premises were visited by the Public Health Inspector, often in conjunction with visits under the Factories Act, Offices Shops and Railway Premises Act or Public Health Acts.

Nine Voluntary Surrender Certificates were issued for defective food resulting from damaged containers, breaking down refrigerators or blown tins.

The Dorset County Council are the Food and Drug Authority for the District, and in this capacity their Weights and Measurers Department submitted eighteen food samples to the laboratory from Portland, apart from samples from outside sources, and distribution centres on the mainland for examination. The County Council are also responsible for the administration of the Trade Description Act, 1968.

Following a complaint about a fly in a Pasty, the County Weights and Measurers Department investigated it, but no further action could be taken. A small pellet, about the same size and colour as a pellet of Rat Poison was found in a bag of potato crisps, this was examined by the Weights and Measurers Department, but was found to be particles of crisps bound together with fat. No further action was taken.

### (2) MEAT PREMISES

There are no registered Slaughter Houses and no Poultry Processing Premises within the District, although there are Egg Production Premises at Moorfield Road, Easton for approximately 15,000 hens.

All meat for human consumption was inspected by Officers of the adjoining Authorities and brought to the Island in enclosed metal vans.

All butchers shops or provision shops producing or selling meat were visited frequently, and standards were found to be in accordance with the Meat Regulations 1960, Food and Drugs Act 1955 and Food Hygiene Regulations.

### (3) MILK

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1963, the Dorset County Council registered grocers and cafes as dealers for the sale of pre-packed pasteurised milk on Portland.

The County Weights and Measurers Department reported that thirteen milk samples were submitted to the Laboratory from retailers and food premises and all these were correct.

The two main suppliers of milk are Messrs. Unigate Ltd., and the Weymouth and District Co-operative Society, both at Weymouth.

## MILK - cont'd

The Island has two farmers who forward milk to Weymouth for pasteurisation. The Public Health Inspector visited these farms four times in regard to rats, manure removal and toilet facilities.

### (4) SUMMARY

Food premises within the area are as follows:-

Butchers Shops	8
Bakers Shops	6
Bakeries	3
Greengrocers	14
General Provision Shops	36
Confectioners	21
Mobile Canteens	2
Works Canteens	1
Food Stalls	2
School Canteens	3
Hotels	6
Licensed Premises	23
Licensed Clubs	4
Salvation Army Hostels	1
Cafes	12

### (5) FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1960 CAFE AND FOOD PREMISES

Three notices were needed for minor items in food premises regarding drainage, equipment, repairs, rodent proofing, redecorations and general cleanliness.

The construction of the new Cafe at Verne Yeates to replace the temporary cafe is still proceeding.

Generally speaking the standard of food hygiene was reasonably satisfactory.

### (6) UN SOUND FOOD VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED AND DISPOSED OF

Condemned food collected by Council Transport after Voluntary Surrender has been agreed in writing and disposed of at the Council Tip as follows:-

Meat Pies	8
Fish	25 pkts.
Beans	6 lbs.
Rissoles	7 pkts.
Rice	6 lbs.
Beef	14 lbs.
Ham	14 lbs.
Faggots	6 pkts.
Flour	210 lbs.
Apricots	4 lbs.
Pineapples	2 lbs.
Peaches	6 lbs.
Pastry	10 lbs.
Tomatoes (tinned)	4 lbs.

## WATER SUPPLY

The Dorset Water Board is responsible for the supply of water to the Island.

All the houses in the district have a main water supply which is chlorinated. Thirty-two samples of the chlorinated supply were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Dorchester, for bacteriological examination, and all were reported as satisfactory.



## WATER SUPPLY - cont'd

One sample of the public water supply was submitted for a full analysis to Messrs. Waterfall & O'Brien of Bristol who reported as follows:-

Portland U.D.C. Council Offices, Portland, Dorset 31/5/73

Appearance	clear and colourless		
pH	7.45		
Free carbon dioxide	CO <sub>2</sub>	12	parts per million
Ammonia	free	N	0.08
	albuminoid		0.02
Chloride	Cl	21	
Oxygen absorbed		0.08	
Nitrite	N	nil	
Nitrate	N	3.3	
Total solids		306	
- loss on ignition (no charring)		9	
Hardness	temporary	CaCO <sub>2</sub>	200
	permanent		29
	total		229
Lead	Pb	0.12	
Copper	Cu	0.10	
Iron	Fe	0.40	
Fluoride	F	0.08	
Calcium	Ca	86	
Magnesium	Mg	3.6	
Sodium	Na	14	
Potassium	K	0.7	
Carbonate	CO <sub>3</sub>	120	
Sulphate	SO <sub>3</sub>	12	
Chloride	Cl <sup>4</sup>	21	
Nitrate	NO <sub>3</sub>	14	

During the year a complaint of inadequate water supply was received from a resident at Portland Bill. This complaint was taken up with the Water Board and some improvement followed.

## HOUSING ACT 1956 - 1969

During the year the following were officially represented as unfit for human habitation and Closing Orders made:-

159 and 161 High Street, Fortuneswell

## HOUSING ACT 1961 - MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

Under the Housing Act 1961, forty visits were made to the thirty-five houses occupied by more than one family, and five informal notices, mainly for essential repairs to roofs or eradication of dampness were served.

A Salvation Army Hostel with seventy cubicles is well maintained.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the area.

#### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47

No formal action was required during the year, but fifty visits were made to aged and infirm persons, and help and guidance given as needed.

#### COUNCIL HOUSE APPLICATIONS - VINDELIS COURT AND LADY MEADE COURT

During the year eighteen "Special Condition" Applications for Council accommodation were investigated and fourteen visits were made regarding these by the Medical Officer of Health and the Public Health Inspector, with a view to further selection for tenants for the Elderly Persons Flats with a Warden.

Work proceeded on the new Elderly Persons flats with a Warden at Lady Meade Court, Easton.

Vindelis Court and Lady Meade Court (when completed) were designed by the Council with provision for a Warden, so that the tenants who are elderly or infirm are able to be given any assistance or advice required.

#### CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960

There are three licensed caravan sites on the Island as follows:-

(i) Messrs. H.E.M. and B.A.W. Cade of Shiremore Hill, Merriott, Somerset for five residential and six holiday caravans at the Glen Caravan Site (adj. 154 Wakeham).

(ii) Mr. H.W. and Mrs. D. Legg have permanent planning permission for sixteen residential caravans at the rear of Weston House, Weston Road, (called the Weston Caravan Site).

(iii) Messrs. Cove Chalet Park (Portland) are licensed for thirty holiday caravans in the upper and lower paddocks, adjoining Pennsylvania Castle.

These sites were regularly visited (24 occasions), by the Public Health Inspector, and a good standard was maintained. The fire hose and equipment were adjudged satisfactorily by the Fire Officer concerned, having regard to the available water supply on the Island.

#### THE DISEASE OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOOD) ORDER 1957

By this order all waste food for animals must be boiled before use. The County Council registered premises on the Island and the County Land Agent's Department employed an Inspector to visit each Pig Keeper's premises and check the boiler at least quarterly. Eight visits were also made by the Public Health Inspector, when conditions were generally found to be satisfactory.

#### ANIMAL BOARDING ACT 1953 - PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

No Pet Shops were licensed on the Island throughout the year, but one licence was issued under the Animal Boarding Act.

The local R.S.P.C.A. Inspector is an Honorary Inspector under the Pet Animals Act, and six visits were made by the Public Health Inspector.

#### DEALERS IN SCRAP METAL

Five persons were registered by the Council to deal in Scrap Metal under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964. A new application was received and provisional notification was made to the Chief Constable.



## DEALERS IN SCRAP METAL - cont'd

The Public Health Inspector made six visits to these dealers. The general inspection of the books and premises were, by the Act carried out by the Police Authority after registration with the Council.

## MINES AND QUARRIES ACT 1954 SECTION 151 - PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936 SECTION 92

Eight visits were made to check quarry fences throughout the Island. By this Act, an unfenced quarry is a Statutory Nuisance and abatement is ensured by notices being served under Section 92 of the Public Health Act, 1936. The main quarry companies were reminded regarding renewal or repair of fences and a reasonable standard resulted.

## LITTER ACT 1958 - CIVIC AMENITIES ACT 1967

The Council and the Crown Officers of the Court Leet try to minimise the litter problem at Portland Bill and other Crown Land open to the Public.

Portland Bill attracts many thousands of sight-seers every Summer, and in spite of propaganda, visitors to this area do not seem to be as litter conscious as would be hoped. Fortunately however, this exposed area receives periodic cleaning of its litter into the sea by the high winds.

To the east of the Bill itself there is a considerable area of land taken up by huts, which are for day recreational purposes. It can be reported that these huts and the surrounding area has, once again, been kept in immaculate condition. In the summer complaints were received from Residents regarding persons tipping rubbish into the nearby quarries. A circular letter was sent to all residents and hut owners, and an improvement followed.

Civic Amenities Act 1967 - by this Act the Council are required to provide a suitable disposal area for unwanted items such as cars or general refuse. With this in mind, the Council provide a pound in Wide Street where vehicles needed to be removed and constant vigilance was necessary.

The Council also provided large skips at various points on the Island for persons wishing to dispose of large amounts of rubbish.

## PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

There are twelve public conveniences for men and ten for women. These are maintained in a reasonable condition. The new dual conveniences planned for the Victoria Square Car Park were completed.

The public conveniences at Portland Bill are still inadequate during the peak summer period.

Ninty-five visits were made to check the maintenance of the conveniences by the Public Health Inspector, and a very few complaints were received, in spite of periodic vandalism.

## DRAINAGE AND GENERAL WORK

The Health Department carried out the clearing of drains and private sewers by direct labour at no extra cost to the property owners. Sixteen notices were served on the owners for drainage repairs or improvements or drains giving recurrent trouble, and eighty-eight reinspections resulted.

The Public Health Inspector investigated and tested all drainage defects or complaints throughout the Island.



## DRAINAGE AND GENERAL WORK - cont'd

The Council's Sanitary Assistant and Rodent Operative carried out most of the rodent destruction throughout the area (apart from Crown Properties), disinfestation and disinfections of buildings, burning of accumulations, spraying of the Council's Tip and other miscellaneous duties.

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936, - DUST AND SMOKE

Several complaints were received from Residents in the Wakeham/Easton area (during the Summer) regarding a Dust Nuisance from the quarries at the rear of Wakeham. The Public Health Inspector visited the quarries and advised the owners on how to minimise this dust nuisance. An improvement followed.

A new chimney was installed at the Borstal institution, and there was evidence of smoke around it. Several complaints were received from residents in the surrounding area, and the Public Health Inspector visited and advised the Government Engineers. Six spot checks were made, and it was considered that an improvement in this smoke emission had been achieved.

## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Portland has over 4,500 dwellings and business premises, and drainage from these, with a few exceptions, passes into sewers and out to sea, untreated through four outfalls at Chiswell, Chene, Portland Bill and Sheat.

Apart from a small area at the south end of Wakeham, all the Tophill sewerage enters the sea by natural fall, but in the Underhill area sewage is pumped from Castletown into the sea at Chiswell.

The Grove area, comprising of the Borstal Institution and Officers Quarters, the Grove School and two large houses in the area are connected to the Institution's private sewer outfall.

The Admiralty have private sewer outfalls from the Naval Base and other establishments adjoining, which enter the sea outside the Harbour.

The sewer of the Westcliff Naval Housing Estate and the large Admiralty buildings at Southwell are connected to the Council's sewers, although the surface water is disposed of separately.

## RODENT CONTROL

The district was inspected for rats and other rodents, by the Public Health Inspector and the Part-time Rodent Operator. Emphasis was continued on showing occupiers how to use bait safely and keep premises rat-proofed. The open spaces in Portland continued to need regular attention, but no further major infestations occurred.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food methods of disinfestation were used and there were regular visits from their own Officers to check the work.

During the year the sewers were poison-baited according to the Ministry Inspector's advice. Only three baits were taken by rats in the sewers. Baits containing preservatives were used for both sewers and surface treatments. Small metal trays in selected manholes hold the bait above the level of the storm water flow during the rainy season.

Fifty-nine small infestations of rats were dealt with and twelve treatments were given for mice.

## RODENT CONTROL - cont'd

The Council Tip was baited eight times during the year.

Number of visits by the part-time rodent operative (inspections and treatments)	320
Sewer manholes poison-baited	63
Visits made by the Public Health Inspector primarily for other purposes, but combined with rodent inspection	821
Visits made by the Public Health Inspector for Rodent matters only	65

## REFUSE COLLECTION

This work is under the control of the Council's Engineer & Surveyor who writes as follows:-

"A weekly collection of house and shop refuse was carried out regularly and satisfactorily throughout the year. A performance payment scheme is operated.

One Commer 35 cubic yard tipping, rear loading vehicle is used for main collections. One Afternoon a week a second vehicle, being an 18 yard Commer rear loading verticle tipping vehicle is used for collections in narrow streets.

It is estimated that 3,224 tons of house and trade refuse was disposed of during the year, apart from 700 tons of refuse from the Naval Base.

Efforts are made to maintain controlled tipping at the Council's Tip at Wide Street, and a man is employed full-time to control this, and operate partial salvage. Owing to it's high exposed position, sufficient cover soil was essential at early periods, together with nets to prevent the lighter items blowing about. This was provided and the tip maintained satisfactorily."

## OFFICES AND SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

By this Act, occupiers of shops and offices are required to be registered with the Local Authority (mines, quarries and works offices, railways, government and local government properties are registered with H.M. Factory Inspector), and all premises are notified to the County Fire Officer.

The Public Health Inspector is the Authorised Officer under the Act and the tenth report to the Department of Employment showed that at the end of 1973 two hundred and twelve visits were made to the offices, shops wholesale warehouses, catering establishments and fuel depots.

There are 178 men and 272 women employed in premises registered with the Portland Council. No accidents were reported.

## PLEASURE BOATS USED FOR HIRE

The Council registered six boats under Section 172 of the Public Health Act 1875 to ply for hire and carrying not more than 11 persons including the crew and operate from the Urban District. Any vessels carrying larger numbers of persons than this are registered with the Board of Trade. Particular attention was paid to the condition of the vessels, together with life saving precautions and operating equipment.

## NOISE ABATEMENT

During the year thirty-three complaints were investigated regarding noise, particularly in flats, and thirty-three visits made, two statutory notices were served, but mostly advice was given.



NOISE ABATEMENT - cont'd

It was found that many modern premises had been constructed with insufficient regard to noise prevention, particularly through concrete floors without separate ceilings.

Complaints were received regarding noise from a licensed club. The Medical Officer of Health and the Public Health Inspector visited on several occasions and an informal notice was given to the Secretary of the Club, and this resulted in an improvement.

Complaints were also received regarding the noise made by the filling of skin divers air tanks during the weekends in the Summer. Notices were served on the persons causing the noise.

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS ETC., MADE BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Visits made under the Public Health Acts	66
Complaints investigated	54
Informal notices issued	51
Reinspections	89
Informal notices complied	51
Builders or owners interviewed or reminded	66
Disinfestations (not rats)	88
Fire precautions	14
Qualification Certificates	14
Soil samples	4
Housing Applications 'Special Conditions'	34
Noise	33
Vindelis Court	30
Miscellaneous	33
Soiling of Staircases	2
Special visits	3
Council House visits	16
Animals	6
Tenancy selection	3
Tenancy enquiries	4
Water samples sent for bacteriological examination	32
Water samples sent for lead and mineral examination	1
Water wastage reported	9
Visits re. drains	106
Drains or sewers cleared	127
Reinspections	88
Preliminary Notices	12
Statutory Notices served	4
Septic tanks pumped	5
Grease tanks pumped	1
Dust nuisances	3
Food Certificates	18
Grocers	31
Bakers	5
Cafes	3
Complaints investigated	7
School canteens	5
Butchers	2
Reminders to food premises (re. regulations)	20
Items referred to the County Council	2
Referred to the Magistrates	1
Miscellaneous	20
Accumulations	29
Factories	22
Public Conveniences	95
Council Tip and Depot	16
Petroleum Tanks	16
Notifications	12
Miscellaneous	160
Caravans and tents	24
Preliminary notices	6
Elderly or infirm persons	50
Factories re. noise	2
Youth centre	2
Pleasure Boats	10
Houses let in lodgings	26
Hackney Carriages	40
Summaries forwarded	78
Smoke and Dust investigations	8
Offices and Shops Acts	212
Mortgaged Properties	16
Quarry fences	8
Council Tip baited for rats	8

Borstal	1
Scrap Metal Dealers	6
Informal Notices issued	57
Informal Notices complied	57
Preliminary Notices issued	18
Preliminary Notices complied	18
Statutory Notices issued	4
Statutory Notices complied	4